

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3738
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Economic
3 Opportunity and Transition Administration Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPOR-
5 TUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.**

6 (a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRAN-
7 SITION ADMINISTRATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
10 following new chapter:

**11 “CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-
12 PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMIN-
13 ISTRATION**

“Sec.
“8001. Organization of Administration.
“8002. Functions of Administration.
“8003. Annual report to Congress.

1 **“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

2 “(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND
3 TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Oppor-
5 tunity and Transition Administration. The primary func-
6 tion of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-
7 tion Administration is the administration of the programs
8 of the Department that provide assistance related to eco-
9 nomic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and
10 survivors.

11 “(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPOR-
12 TUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Op-
13 portunity and Transition Administration is under the
14 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and
15 Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for
16 the operations of the Administration.

17 **“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

18 “The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition
19 Administration is responsible for the administration of the
20 following programs of the Department:

21 “(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment
22 programs.

23 “(2) Educational assistance programs.

24 “(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related pro-
25 grams.

1 “(4) The Transition Assistance Program under
2 section 1144 of title 10.

3 “(5) Any other program of the Department
4 that the Secretary determines appropriate.

5 **“§ 8003. Annual report to Congress**

6 “The Secretary shall include in the annual report to
7 the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report
8 on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for
9 Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each
10 such report shall include the following with respect to each
11 such program during the fiscal year covered by that re-
12 port:

13 “(1) The number of claims received.

14 “(2) The number of claims decided.

15 “(3) The average processing time for a claim.

16 “(4) The number of successful outcomes (as de-
17 termined by the Secretary).

18 “(5) The number of full-time equivalent em-
19 ployees.

20 “(6) The amounts expended for information
21 technology.”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of
23 chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States
24 Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code,

1 are each amended by inserting after the item relat-
2 ing to chapter 79 the following new item:

**“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Ad-
ministration 8001”.**

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38,
4 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
5 effect on October 1, 2024.

6 (c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2024
7 and 2025, the total number of full-time equivalent employ-
8 ees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration
9 and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition
10 Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title
11 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may
12 not exceed—

13 (1) 34,228 in fiscal year 2024; and

14 (2) 35,417 in fiscal year 2025.

15 (d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in
16 the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement
17 that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Op-
19 portunity and Transition Administration, as established
20 under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added
21 by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such
22 employee after such transfer.

1 **SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-**
2 **PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.**

3 (a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section
6 306 the following new section:

7 **“§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-**
8 **portunity and Transition**

9 “(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Depart-
10 ment an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
11 tunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President,
12 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
13 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and
14 Transition shall be appointed without regard to political
15 affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of dem-
16 onstrated ability in—

17 “(1) information technology; and

18 “(2) the administration of programs within the
19 Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Ad-
20 ministration or programs of similar content and
21 scope.

22 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for
23 Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the
24 head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for
25 the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and
26 Transition Administration.

1 “(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the po-
2 sition of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
3 tunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Sec-
4 retary shall establish a commission to recommend individ-
5 uals to the President for appointment to the position.

6 “(2) A commission established under this subsection
7 shall be composed of the following members appointed by
8 the Secretary:

9 “(A) Three persons representing education and
10 training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real
11 estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and
12 survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans
13 Economic Opportunity and Transition Administra-
14 tion.

15 “(B) Two persons representing veterans served
16 by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-
17 tion Administration.

18 “(C) Two persons who have experience in the
19 management of private sector benefits programs of
20 similar content and scope to the economic oppor-
21 tunity and transition programs of the Department.

22 “(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

23 “(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory
24 Committee on Education formed under section 3692
25 of this title.

1 “(F) One person who has held the position of
2 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
3 and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it
4 is desirable for such person to be a member of the
5 commission.

6 “(3) A commission established under this subsection
7 shall recommend at least three individuals for appoint-
8 ment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-
9 nomic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall
10 submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Sec-
11 retary shall forward the recommendations to the President
12 and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
13 and House of Representatives with any comments the Sec-
14 retary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President
15 may request the commission to recommend additional in-
16 dividuals for appointment.

17 “(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel
19 management and labor relations functions shall serve as
20 the executive secretary of a commission established under
21 this subsection.”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
23 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
24 by inserting after the item relating to section 306
25 the following new item:

 “306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United
2 States Code, is further amended—

3 (1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subpara-
4 graphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subpara-
5 graphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A)
6 through (D), respectively;

7 (2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after
8 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the
9 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
10 and Transition,”;

11 (3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after
12 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the
13 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
14 and Transition,”;

15 (4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health
16 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
17 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the
18 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
19 and Transition”;

20 (5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health
21 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
22 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the
23 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
24 and Transition”;

1 (6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking
2 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
3 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
4 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
5 portunity and Transition”;

6 (7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking
7 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
8 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
9 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
10 portunity and Transition”;

11 (8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after
12 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the
13 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
14 and Transition,”;

15 (9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “as-
16 sistance” the following: “, other than assistance re-
17 lated to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;
18 and

19 (10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2)
20 and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
21 paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38,
23 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the
24 amendments made by this section, shall take effect on Oc-
25 tober 1, 2024.

1 **SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF SERVICES.**

2 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
5 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
6 tives a report on the progress toward establishing the Vet-
7 erans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administra-
8 tion, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United
9 States Code, as added by section 2, and the transition of
10 the provision of services to veterans by such Administra-
11 tion.

12 (b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
13 fairs may not transfer the function of providing any serv-
14 ices to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity
15 and Transition Administration, as established under sec-
16 tion 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by
17 section 2, until the Secretary submits to the Committees
18 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
19 resentatives certification that—

20 (1) the transition of the provision of services to
21 such Administration will not negatively affect the
22 provision of such services to veterans; and

23 (2) such services are ready to be transferred.

24 (c) DEADLINE FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary
25 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of

1 the Senate and House of Representatives the certification
2 required by subsection (b)—

3 (1) no earlier than April 1, 2024; and

4 (2) no later than September 1, 2024.

5 (d) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary fails to
6 submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the
7 date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall sub-
8 mit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
9 and House of Representatives a report that includes—

10 (1) the reason why the certification was not
11 made by such date; and

12 (2) the estimated date when the certification
13 will be made.

14 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

15 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
16 United States Code, is amended by striking “November
17 15, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November
18 30, 2031”.

